

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): Laser machining apparatus comprising:  
  
a control means for outputting command pulse sets according to control parameter settings for controlling laser pulse output power;  
  
a thinning-out means, into which the command pulse sets are inputted, for ~~thinning out~~ pulses ~~switching a number of pulses thinned out from the command pulse sets, based on predetermined setting values;~~ according to a pulse width setting of the control parameters  
  
an electric power supplying means for generating, in response to command pulse sets outputted from the thinning-out means, pulsed electric power supplied to a load; and  
  
a generating means for pumping, ~~so as to~~ output a laser beam, a laser medium with which a discharging space is filled, by means of discharge generated by the pulsed electric power supplied from the electric power supplying means.

Claim 2 (canceled)

3. (currently amended): Laser machining apparatus as recited in claim 2~~1~~, wherein a switching period of the inverter circuit is set shorter than both the time constant for the rise/fall of the electric discharging power and the time constant for the fall of the laser output power.

Claim 4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended): A control method for laser machining apparatus, ~~so as to that~~  
~~output~~ outputs a laser beam, ~~including the steps of the method comprising:~~

outputting command pulse sets according to control parameter settings for controlling  
laser pulse output power,

of generating, in response to the command pulse sets, pulsed electric power supplied to a  
load,

~~and of~~ pumping a laser medium, with which a discharging space is filled, by means of  
discharge generated by the pulsed electric power, ~~the method for the apparatus comprising the~~  
~~step of:~~ and

changing the switching number of an inverter circuit in an electric power supplying  
means for generating the pulsed electric power, by thinning out ~~according to~~ the command pulse  
sets according to a pulse width command of the control parameters ~~being orderly thinned out.~~

6. (new) The laser machining apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein two or more  
modes are provided according to the pulse width setting, the control means discriminates which  
of the modes is selected according to the pulse width setting, and outputs a mode select signal,  
and thereby the thinning out means outputs pulse signals with a thinning-out number of pulses  
being switched.